7. In FIR No.715/06 under section 506 IPC registered at Police Station R.K Puram, police protection provided to (i) Smt. Neelam Bhati Gaur and (ii) Shri Keshav Kaushik.

Floods in North Bihar

2374. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Bihar has been badly affected by the floods affecting lakhs of people by damaging their houses and properties;

(b) if so, how many people have been affected, how many properties have been damaged, how many people and animals have died, how many villages are affected etc.; and

(c) what relief has been provided to the people by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Government of Bihar, based on their preliminary assessment, 209.52 lakh people have been affected, 532 human lives have been lost, 582 cattle heads perished, 16.77 lakh hectares of cropped area, 260231 houses fully and 321114 houses partially, in 10004 villages in 20 districts in the State reported to have been damaged in varying degree due to heavy rains/floods during South West Monsoon 2007.

The State Government is taking necessary rescue and relief operations in the affected areas which include evacuation of about 995817 people to safer places, operation of 1325 relief camps and 371 cattle camps, deployment of boats and providing essential commodities *viz.* readymade food, wheat, rice, chura, gur, salt, kerosene oil matchboxes, candles, etc. and operation of free kitchens. The State Government also has deployed 538 medical teams in the affected areas to prevent outbreak of any epidemic.

Killing of forest department officials in Orissa by terrorists

2375. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that three employees of Forest Department have been killed by terrorists in Dhenkanal district of Orissa recently;

(b) the number of such incidents occurred and the number of the people killed during the last five years in such incidents; and

(c) if so, the directions given by Government to the State in this regard and the details of the assistance extended to the State by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per information available, the armed cadres of CPML-Jana Shakti, a Left Wing Extremist outfit, killed 1 forester and 2

forest guards in Kandara forest area falling under Kamakhyanagar Police Station in Dhenkanal District in the intervening night of January 31-February, 1,2007.

(b) The details in respect of officials of Forest Department of Orissa are given below:

	Attacks	Deaths
2002	2	–
2003	2	–
2004	–	–
2005	1	–
2006	2	–
2007* (upto 29th August)	5	4

(c) Law and order being a State subject, dealing with the various issues related to naxalite violence primarily lies in the domain of the State Government concerned. Action is being taken continuously by the State Government to minimize such possibilities and to strengthen related security arrangements. The Central Government is also supplementing the efforts and resources of the State Government through a variety of measures, including deployment of 4 battalions of Central Para Military Forces which work under the command of the State Government, strengthening of the local police and intelligence agencies through the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, provision of assistance through the Scheme of Security Related Expenditure and sanctioning of 3 India Reserve battalions.

National Communal Harmony Award

2376. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to institute a National Communal Harmony Award and set up an international study centre in New Delhi named after Basaveshwara; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The information is being collected from the concerned Ministries and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Police firing for crowd control

2377. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions under which police firing as a method of crowd control is used;

(b) whether methods such as water canons, tear gas etc. are not used to disperse crowds before the use of bullets; and